GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1754
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
PROBLEMS FACED BY COCONUT FARMERS
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of the coconut farmers in the Coastal States in the country especially in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to resolve their problems;

(c) whether the Coconut Development Board has initiated any scheme to assist the coconut growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Government has taken following steps to resolve problems of coconut farmers:-

+ An amount of Rs.5799.83 lakhs was released to the States of Kerala, Karnataka,Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa exclusively for control of eriophyid mite of coconut during the year 1998-99 to 2000-2001. Of this, the release to Karnataka was Rs.1350.40 lakhs.

+ In order to ensure remunerative prices to coconut farmers for their produce, Government of India fix Minimum Support Price (MSP) every year for milling copra and ball copra and undertake price support operations. The MSP fixed for the year2002 is Rs.3300/- Qtl for milling copra and Rs.3550/-Qtl. for ball copra.

+ The Coconut Development Board had encouraged market promotion activities fordiversiafied coconut products to stablise the trend in the price of coconut.

+ Productivity increase per tree and adoption of coconut based farming system are stressed for sustainable income per unit area.

+ The Coconut Development Board encouraged diversification of coconut products and value added products.

(c)&(d): The Coconut Development Board under Ministry of Agriculture is implementingprogrammes, viz., production & distribution of quality planting material, expansion of area under coconut, integrated farming for productivity improvement; technology demonstration; market promotion and statistics; information & information technology; infrastructure and administration. Besides, Scheme for Technology Mission on Coconut has been launched during 2001-2002 for giving focussed attention on management of insects, pest and diseases; processing and product diversification and market research and promotion. The funds released for implementation of various programmes of the Board during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Funds released (Rupees in crores)
2000-2001	70.00+
2001-2002	27.40
2002-2003	40.00 (Budget Estimate)

+ Include Rs.44.85 crore for control of coconut mite and Rs.5.15 crore for assistance tocyclone affected coconut trees in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.